IN THE CLAIMS

35 (currently amended). A composition formed during the detection of a target polynucleotide analyte at a temperature wherein a first oliogonucleotide substantially reversibly hybridizes to the polynucleotide analyte, the composition comprising a first oligonucleotide capable of reversibly hybridizing to a polynucleotide analyte, the first oligonucleotide comprising a 3' portion that is substantially complementary to the analyte and a 5' portion which does bot hybridize to the analyte, wherein the second oligonucleotide hybridizes to said analyte at a location in the 3' direction from the first oligonucleotide, the second oligonucleotide being substantially fully hybridized to the polynucleotide analyte at the temperature where the first oligonucleotide reversibly hybridizes with the polynucleotide analyte.

36 (canceled).

37 (previously presented). The composition of claim 1 wherein the first oligonucleotide comprises a label.

38 (previously presented). The composition of claim 3 wherein the label is on the 3' portion of the first oligonucleotide.

39 (currently amended). The composition of claim 3 wherein the label is on the 5' portion of the first oligonucleotide.

40 (currently amended). The composition of claim 1 wherein the 5' portion of the first oligonucleotide comprises ~~about~~ 1 to about 20 oligonucleotides.

41 (previously presented). The composition of claim 1 wherein the 3' portion of the first oligonucleotide comprises about 10 to 40 nucleotides.